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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/561,151	09/25/2006	Keijo J. Kinnari	TANDBERGS 7	9109
25877	7590	12/17/2008		
JEFFREY PEARCE 34825 SULTAN-STARTUP RD. SULTAN, WA 98294			EXAMINER PAIK, SANG YEOP	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3742	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/17/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/561,151	Applicant(s) KINNARI ET AL.	
	Examiner SANG Y. PAIK	Art Unit 3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 5-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 5-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2, 5, 6, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holen (US 2002/00287070).

Holen shows the method and the system claimed including a direct electric heating of a subsea pipeline with an electrical current source, a support device supporting the current source, a first and second electrical connections in contact with the pipeline, and a riser cable having a first and a second electrical conductor for conducting electrical current to the first and second electrical connections, in which the current source provides the current sufficient to cause heating of the pipeline to a desired temperature.

While, Holen does not explicitly show that its heating temperature is above the melting point of ice but below the melting point of hydrate, it would have been obvious to set the desired temperature at the recited range or any other suitable range as Holen allows for varying degree of current level to allow efficient flow of crude oil through the pipeline.

3. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holen as applied to claims 2, 5, 6, 10 and 11 above, and further in view of Ness et al (US 6,328,583).

Holen shows the system claimed except for the support device being a vessel.

Ness shows a support device being a vessel from which an electrical cable is provided therefrom.

In view of Ness, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Holen with its support device as that of a vessel, as an alternative means, to provide for a mobile support device that can transport its riser cable to different pipeline locations.

4. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holen as applied to claims 2, 5, 6, 10 and 11 above, and further in view of Firmin (US 2004/0253734) or Agee et al (US 2003/0178195).

Holen shows the method claimed except for a second plug-counteracting procedure to remove hydrate plug or ice.

Firmin shows that it is known in the art to use means of chemical injection as well as the pressurization system to remove a hydrate plug, and Agee also shows a known means of depressurization to remove a hydrate plug or ice.

In view of Firmin or Agee, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Holen with the chemical injection or depressurization to remove a hydrate plug or ice in the pipeline to facilitate a more effective flow in the pipeline.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SANG Y. PAIK whose telephone number is (571) 272-4783. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tu Hoang can be reached on (571) 272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/SANG Y PAIK/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3742